

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A blood collection needle protector for use with a needle assembly that includes a piercing end, a hub and a blood collection tube attached to the hub comprising:
  - a unitary body including first and second open ends;
  - a plurality of side walls extending between the said first and second open ends, said side walls defining an interior chamber, wherein said first open end is adapted to receive the hub of a needle assembly;
  - wherein at least one of said side walls includes a retaining member adapted for contacting said hub of said needle assembly; and
  - wherein one of said side walls defines a slot for viewing said interior chamber.
2. The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said second open end comprises a multiple profile window adapted to slidably receive and secure the blood collection tubing.
3. The needle protector of Claim 2 wherein said side wall includes a retaining member defining a slot for viewing said interior chamber.
4. The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein one of said side walls further comprises first and second guiding ledges extending inwardly therefrom.
5. The needle protector of Claim 4 wherein the first and second

guiding ledges inwardly extend from said side wall including said retaining member.

6. The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein one of said side walls further includes and defines an axial groove.

7. The needle protector of Claim 6 wherein said side wall opposite said side wall, including said retaining member, defines said groove.

8. The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said retaining member comprises a detent depending from one of said side walls.

9. The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said body further comprises an outwardly extending radial flange at said open distal end.

10. The needle protector of Claim 1 further comprising a cap associated with said open distal end.

11. A blood collection needle protector assembly comprising a needle assembly, including a piercing end attached to a hub and a length of tubing attached to the opposite end of said hub, said hub further comprising a rib extending outwardly therefrom;

a body including first and second open ends; and

a plurality of side walls extending between said first and second open ends, wherein said first end is adapted to receive the hub of said needle assembly, wherein one of said side walls further includes a retaining member adapted for contacting said hub of said

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needle assembly and another of said side walls further includes and defines a groove extending axially from said first open distal end to said proximal end.